

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

Volume 9

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, FEB 18-24, 1945

Number 8

WITHIN THE WEEK

So far as the published conclusions of the Crimea conference are concerned, any moderately proficient crystal-gazer could have looked into the gleaming ball a month ago and foretold the result.

It was inevitable that the Big Three would reaffirm their solidarity; that they would reiterate the principles of the Atlantic Charter, and that they should emphasize their intent to crush Nazi Germany. It was also a foregone conclusion that the Polish situation would be handled substantially as it was (and that the Polish gov't in London would oppose).

The spontaneous outbursts of approval which emanated from Washington upon early published reports of the conference have the appearance of being rather carefully stage-managed; probably part and parcel of the State Dep't policy to "sell" internat'l policies to the articulate American public.

All this is not, in any sense, to minimize the importance of the conference. It is merely to point out that its really consequential conclusions have not yet been, and in the nature of things cannot be disclosed at this time.

CONGRESS & WORLD PEACE: It is not too early to take a preliminary look at the 79th Congress and to size up its present attitude with respect to internat'l agree-

ments looking toward world peace. The situation is in marked contrast to 1919. Substantial majorities in both houses favor the abstract idea of world co-operation. In this they reflect the attitude of their constituents, as revealed in various opinion polls. There is no longer any organized isolationist element in the Congress. Isolationism will not be a factor in coming decisions. On the contrary, the trouble-making factor is likely to be the starry-eyed idealists who will want to go farther than political realities will permit. Our reference here is to the self-styled "protectors" of "little nations" who will not be readily reconciled to the view that in a world order (or a missionary tea) a few strong characters must inevitably dominate proceedings if anything is to be accomplished.

Accepting the Dumbarton Oaks proposals as a basis, it would seem that the leaders have gone about as far as practicable in giving voice to the minor nations. They are to have six representatives on the Inner Council, as opposed to the five world leaders (according to plan, China and France are to be added to the "Big Three"). And of course in the gen'l councils they will be in substantial majority. But there is some evidence that this proposal doesn't go far enough to suit certain of the "protectors".

FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED



SHIFTING SANDS

Now that Big Three conference is concluded you can look for terrific publicity barrage from State Dep't to sell public on supporting ROOSEVELT commitments. This campaign may determine who's top dog in State public relations. Inner conflict between McDermott, popular veteran press officer and Foote, appointed by STETTINIUS as "special ass't". Further complication is that MacLean is titular head of that division. . . Chicago Convention Bureau reports 269,000 convention visitors in '44—10,000 above '43—but this includes presidential conventions and nat'l sessions of American Legion. . . Despite ODT frowns, most unions plan conventions as usual, claiming meets are war essential. . . In gen'l, conventions will decline sharply; hotels in metropolitan centers forecast easier travel accommodations. . . Sales exec's assuming WALLACE appointment, say Census, Foreign & Domestic Commerce bureaus should flourish under him.



Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

The titles QUOTE and THE WEEKLY DIGEST are registered with U. S. Patent Office

"We've got the enemy on his heels and we are going to keep on socking him wherever we find him."—Adm WILLIAM S HALSEY.

"Japan's actions since the founding of the empire have invariably been based upon the spirit of universal brotherhood."—Prime Minister Gen'l KUNIYAKI KOISO.

"The dames are prettier, the beer colder, the skies bluer, and, in general, the USA is still tops."—Two anti-aircraft soldiers, back with the U S forces in Belgium after 30-day furloughs.

"The Japanese nation confidently expects that Germany, true to her glorious tradition, will muster her will power and successfully fulfill her God-given mission."—Message to HITLER, delivered to HEINRICH STAHLER, German Ambassador to Japan.

"I remembered Gandhi and his fasts. 'Well,' I said, 'he doesn't weigh half what I do. If he can go without food for days at a time, I can too.'"—Ensign ALFRED NAUMAN, Jr., who spent 7 days in a rubber raft in Pacific without food or water. (When rescued on 7th day, the 160-lb San Franciscan was too weak to stand.)

"I can't be cool like the American players." — PANCHO SEGURA, South American tennis player, who has been quite successful in big U S tournaments but believes he will never be the American champion. Declared that American sports success is due to our calm, even temperament.

"You could shoot a cannon through the joint upstairs and not hurt a soul."—GEORGE MADSEN, store proprietor of Nome, Alaska, mourning huge surplus of cigarettes, butter, prewar Scotch and bourbon brought in last fall to meet needs of construction workers expected. Workers arrived, moved out again before making dent in pile. Complained MADSEN, "I guess we got our reconversion headache early."

"It cannot be said that the Japanese navy has the war situation under complete control."—TOKIO RADIO.

"Except for poetry, the world would be a shambles of ill will and chaos."—Dr IRWIN EDMAN, Professor of Philosophy at Columbia U, speaking to Poetry Society of America.

"If you'd read my application you would know why."—Kansas City man, applying for gasoline ration, was curtly refused when he stated that he could not get riders. Seems that his job was hauling garbage.

"In these days, all civilized people laugh at pretty much the same kind of things, including one another and — thank God — themselves."—DAVID LOW, British cartoonist, in *N Y Times Mag.*

"I couldn't sleep at home so I came here. I missed the jungle noises."—Soldier on leave from New Guinea, found asleep on bench in the parrot house at Brookfield Zoo in Chicago.

"That irritated them no end . . . We had several complaints."—Maj CHARLES M PARR, staff officer of American 66th Div, reporting resentment of Nazis, isolated in several western French ports by Allied sweep, when their theaters were shelled by Allies.

"If a farm has been abandoned by an experienced farmer, it is no place for a beginner."—A Prof of Agriculture issuing a warning to inexperienced servicemen who plan to take up agriculture. G I's best move, he counsels, is to "Go to work for a practical farmer until you know what it's all about."

"We intend to treat him until such time as he is able to perform the ceremony."—Announcement of prospective bride and bridegroom of Clearwater, Fla, both mbrs of Army Medical Corps, arriving at home of local marriage clerk who had refused to officiate at their wedding because he was sick with a cold.

"MAY WE
Quote
YOU ON THAT?"

"I now predict that the war will be much shorter than was expected at this time last yr."—JOHN CURTIN, prime minister of Australia.

"Gen MacArthur has fallen into a snare in my hands that he shall regret."—Gen TOMOYUKI YAMASHITA, MacArthur's adversary in Philippines, as reported on Tokio radio.

"Bursting shells do not recognize red crosses."—Chaplain RUSSELL C PROHL, Hammond, Ind, praising heroic action of litter bearers of his medical clearing company, landing in Normandy shortly after D-Day.

"Never mind about that—it's still growing."—Caustic comment of sgt at Camp Blanding, Fla, when a pretty civilian employee walked by on her way to work, just after he had explained to batch of rookies that "policing an area means to pick up everything that isn't growing."

"It's for mourning, or surrender, or something."—A Newark bobby-soxer, explaining significance of white scarves worn by girls gathered to lament re-examination of FRANK SINATRA by his draft board. (One mbr of group said she had lit candles in church and prayed that crooner wouldn't be drafted.)

"One of your customers is a frequent visitor to the Horse & Jockey. Could you tell me how I can get chewing gum off my floor? It seems to stick pretty hard."—J R WARD, prop of a tavern in Bath, Eng, writing to the prop of a Kansas City bar. (Kansas City man said, regrettably, he had no "definite solution.")

"Berlin next stop!"—Elevator operator in IRVING BERLIN's music firm, calling the songwriter's floor.

"With the name I have, I might even study medicine after the war and become a surgeon."—Pvt KEENE CARVER, of Salt Lake City, Utah, training in the Army Medical Corps.

That Guy Again . . .

"I'm dying . . . It doesn't matter particularly whether I am in the Army or out, but this suspense is getting me down."—FRANK SINATRA, awaiting decision of his draft board on reclassification.

"He told me he was definitely 4-F. I took it for granted he'd told everyone. He feels quite disappointed about it, I guess."—MARILYN MAXWELL, actress friend of FRANK SINATRA, discussing singer's last bout with the board.

"Sinatra? Who he? Guerrilla leader?"—A Puzzled Filipino, making inquiry of American troops on Luzon.

"I am no glamor girl; I am a tragedienne."—MARIA MANTON, 20-yr-old daughter of MARLENE DIETRICH, embarking upon dramatic career.

"I'll be in there looking for the next champ right along with the rest of the fellows."—Comdr JACK DEMPSEY, asked if he still retained an interest in heavyweight boxing.

"From now on, I'll go to a movie when I want to see a sarong."—JACK LEARY of Haverhill, Mass., who has lost his curiosity about the South Pacific islands after spending 17 mo's on Navy duty there.

"He is like a man who wasn't invited to the wedding, but who got asked to the reception. And it is at the reception that the cake is cut." Editorial, *Chicago Daily News*, commenting on fact that DEGAULLE was not at Yalta, but will participate in occupation of Germany.

"They help my cough."—65-yr-old grandmother of Portland, Oregon, puffing on a big cigar.

"I'm still a guy who they want my autograph."—KING LEVINSKY. (Once a brash figure of the prize ring, LEVINSKY now ekes out a living selling neckties to sporting element.)

"Pat (Hurley) has no difficulty with those Chinese Communists. He always refers to them as 'those New Dealers.'"—DONALD NELSON, praising services of Brig-Gen'l PATRICK HURLEY, our new ambassador to China. (HURLEY is a Republican.)

"We knocked off enough of them to break up their little raid—and had mutton besides."—Lt TAFT GEORGE, Waco, Tex, relating how Nazi raiding party rounded up flock of sheep and crawled along hidden with them.

"It's the weather — neither the Lenten season nor the war has anything to do with it."—Spokesman for Booth FISHERIES CORP', commenting on scarcity of fish, which he declares were "produced in smaller quantities due to the rugged winter."

"Titles are a dime a doz in Europe. You can't buy American citizenship."—WERNER VON GEBAUER, concert violinist, who refused offer of Nazi party members to overlook his heritage from Mendelsohn and make him an "honorary Aryan" with title of Baron in exchange for performances for Axis propaganda purposes.

"The kind of people he typified—people who were awkward, gangling, uncouth, bad-mannered and so markedly of the lower classes—should not, ordinarily be mentioned in a social column . . . but perhaps we should pass lightly over the objectionable personal traits and only remember his achievements."—Bon SIMPSON, 18-yr-old conductor of a junior column, "Subdebs and Squires" in *Indianapolis Star*, making a magnificently generous apology for A LINCOLN.

"Shoe stamps for sale. Going back to Kentucky."—Sign in window of Cincinnati cafe.

"It's clerical procedure. I really couldn't say why."—Comment of a Selective Service sec'y when asked why, in view of present paper shortage, gov't letters sent to newspapers are invariably accompanied by a carbon copy.

"Numerous cases have been reported in which 20 or more pints of plasma have been required to save 1 man. We must obtain approximately 100,000 additional pints of blood every wk to keep the armed forces fully supplied."—BASIL O'CONNOR, chairman of American Red Cross Blood Donor Service.

"I don't think there is any real secret in making marriage last. The party of the first part and the party of the second part merely give up all their rights and resign themselves to a life of bondage."—ALAN HALE, Hollywood actor, celebrating 30th wedding anniversary. Mrs Hale retorted, "You mustn't pay too much attention to the old gentleman; his back is bothering him today."



Droke House

AMERICA'S LARGEST PUBLISHER
OF SPEECH MATERIAL

QUOTE is issued weekly by Droke House, Indianapolis, Indiana. Maxwell Droke, Editorial Director. Subscription \$5 per year in advance, in U. S. and Possessions. Two years, \$8. Your own and a gift subscription, \$8. Foreign, \$7 per year. Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office at Indianapolis, Indiana, under Act of March 3, 1879. QUOTE uses no original manuscripts; does not accept advertising. Persons using material from QUOTE should credit original sources. Unidentified items may be credited to QUOTE.



MINING THE MAGAZINES

A Correspondent Views
The Home Front
ERNIE PYLE

(Mr Pyle, who recently ret'd from a coverage of European war fronts, is now in the Pacific, stationed temporarily with the U S Navy.)

It is true that a great many people don't know there's a war on, or don't seem to care. I have learned from experience that it's almost impossible—sometimes infuriating in a helpless sort of way—to talk to most civilians feelingly about war.

On trains and in public places I find myself drifting automatically to boys in uniform with overseas ribbons or service stripes, for we can talk the same language.

One man said to me the other day in complete good faith, "Tell me just exactly what is it you don't like about war?"

I think I must have turned a little white. All I could do was look at him in shock and say, "Good God! If you don't know, then I could never tell you." It's little things like that which make the ret'g soldiers feel their misery has all been in vain.

I don't think America at home is either unwilling or incapable of getting fully into the war. We need only to be told more what to do, and to have scarcities and grimness applied clear across the board.

Personally, I'm glad for the President's proposal for a nat'l service act. I think it will stiffen up the whole American nation.

I believe the worst of our war is still to come, and that before it is over everybody in America will really feel it. I hope so, because then the boys overseas won't feel so lonesome.

APPRECIATION—of Children

Scold (your children) if necessary... Paddle them if you must... but don't fail to show them that you appreciate them. They grow best facing the sun.—MARTHA RABE, "They Grow Best Facing the Sun," *American Home*, 2-'45.

BEAUTY—in Industry

Why should the ingenious and often beautiful work of camouflage be confined to the uses of war? A gas-works need be no less efficient because it has the appearance of a beautiful forest.—*London Daily Mirror*.

BOOKS

I believe this book (Britain's *White Paper*) is one of the most remarkable ever written. It is told without headlines, without emphasis, almost without sentiment. The British aren't very good performers on the megaphone.

And although there isn't a line of poetry in it, or any adventure story to keep a boy from his play or hold an old man in the chimney corner, it will assuredly be the source book of dramas to be written, of histories to be penned, of symphonies to be composed, of tales to be told, of poems to be remembered, of songs to be sung, from this day to the end of time.—L W BROCKINGTON, special adviser to British Minister of Information.

CHURCH—Construction

A fortune awaits the person who will design a church without any front pews. — *Shawano County (Wisc) Jnl.*

CO-OPERATION—Internat'l

When the countries of the world spend more time trying to build one another up in economic welfare they will spend less time trying to pull one another down in political power. I believe that world work is the best antidote to world war.—ERIC A JOHNSTON, pres, U S Chamber of Commerce.

DEMOCRACY

Democracy is a way of life. Democracy is sincerity, friendliness, courage, tolerance. If your life and mine do not exemplify these characteristics we do not have the right to call ourselves full-fledged citi-

zens of the world's greatest democracy.—MELVIN J EVANS, "Democracy Among Employees," *Democracy in Action*.

EDUCATION—Neglected

By the end of 1945, according to the Nat'l Child Labor Committee, there will be approx 3 million young people, from 14 to 22, who left school for employment during the war yrs before reaching the age of 18 and before completing high school.—*N E A Jnl.*

Tomorrow

At every dawn I say—
If not today,
My joy will come to me tomorrow.
And hoping for delight,
Dawn becomes night:
Till, thus deceived, I find
Unto my sorrow
At last
That, hoping for tomorrow
My life has passed.
—From the Persian of ZEB-UN-NISSA.

FAME—Price of

It has put my book at the top of the best-seller list, but robbed me of the time to read other people's books.—ERNIE PYLE, war correspondent, commenting on his sudden prominence.

FUTURE—Responsibility for

The future alone can in some measure redeem the dead. As a 17-yr-old miner's son said recently: "The last generation let us down. We must see we don't let down the next."—MARY SEATON, "Billy Turner—War's Child," *Free World*, 2-'45.

GOD—Presence

We can administer the sacrament of communion every instant of our lives if we only persist in thinking that we are taking in our supply of goodness and love. Unless God exists in our thoughts He does not exist for us. He exists everywhere we think He is.—*The Vagabond*.

HAPPINESS

Happiness has this advantage over great wealth—people don't try to borrow it.—Greenville (Miss) *AAF Post*.

ILLITERACY

Few people realize that roughly 62% of the world's population cannot read. Dr Frank Laubach has estimated that 70% of China, 88% of India, 90% of the Moslem world, 95% of the East Indies and 98% of Afghanistan, Iran, Irak, Turkestan and Arabia are illiterate.—*Religious Digest*.

INFLATION

Inflationary dollars are like hat checks; you can increase the number of checks, but there won't be any more hats on the rack.—NEAL O'HARA.

JAPANESE—War Attitude

The Japanese code teaches that war between nations is continuous and inevitable, so declarations of war are nonsense.

No Japanese treaty can be binding, for only the Emperor speaks for the nation and, being divine, he cannot meet on equal terms with mortals. No minister or ambassador can bind the Emperor by his signature since humans cannot limit the freedom of a deity. This should be recalled when their expected bid for a negotiated peace is made.—*Thread of Life*, hm, State Mutual Life Assurance Co.

MARRIED LIFE

Marriage: a process for finding out what sort of guy your wife would have preferred.—STRICKLAND GILLMAN, *Your Life*.

NOMENCLATURE

Somebody suggested to the *Chicago Tribune* that the new airport at Chicago be named after America's highest ranking gen'l. Col McCormick, so goes the gag, went for it in a big way until someone pointed out that the area would necessarily be known as Marshall Field!

ORIGINS

Favorite trick of Egyptian priests to impress parishioners was to have gates of the temple closed, indicating anger of the gods.

A fire would then be lighted on an altar in the temple, and an offering made. Presently the awed assemblage would witness the gates

of the temple slowly open, untouched by human hands. Clearly, a miracle.

Underneath the altar was an area filled with air and channeled to a vat of water. The heat of the votive fire expanded the air and its pressure forced the water thru pipes into buckets attached to the temple doors. When the buckets were filled, their weight opened the doors. The crude device contained the essential elements of the earliest practical steam engines. Fifteen centuries later these engines became a reality.—*Ships*.

They DO say . . .

Early spring booklists presented strange coincidence: two publishers featured volumes with an identical title.—*So Far, So Good*. Both are autobiographies. One, under Harper imprint is by MORRIS ERNST. The other, issued by Messner, presents the colorful life of CHAS HANSON TOWNE. (We hear the ERNST book will be re-titled, *Best is Yet to Come*). . . *The Pathfinder* presents a survey indicating U S churches will invest at least \$1 billion, early postwar, to put their properties in repair and replace structures destroyed by fire, storm, etc since bldg ban became effective. . . BARRY FITZGERALD, who won top Academy honors for portrayal of elder priest in *Going My Way*, is a Protestant. . . Word is that the BLUE Network will be re-christened soon as American Broadcasting Co.

PEACE—War

Only 8% of the time since the beginnings of recorded history has the world spent entirely at peace, according to statistics collected by Lt Col Robert H Cushing of USAR. . . In 3,521 yrs, only 286 have been warless. Eight thousand treaties have been broken in this time.—Editorial, *Etude*, 2-45.

POSTWAR—Planning

Our postwar planning was too much and too soon.—WM R KUHNS, *Banking*.



Although not much has been said about it publicly, one of the reasons Administration is urging a Nat'l Service act is to forestall wholesale exodus of workers from war plants after the knockout of Germany. Even a limited law, which would appear to be the maximum that can now be expected, should have considerable effect in holding present forces in line.

Dept store executives are saying quite frankly that their No 1 problem, as of now, in the merchandising of scarce items, is to keep their own employees (or, as they are euphemistically termed, "house customers") from gobbling up entire shipments before the store's regular patrons have an opportunity to buy. In large stores, an elaborate "grapevine" system spreads advance notice, and workers are on hand at the precise moment goods are put on sale. If management tries to curb the practice, clerks simply lay merchandise aside, buy for friends.

The word now is that even the makeshift girdles of recent mo's will soon become very difficult to obtain. This time it isn't rubber but yarn that is causing the shortage. . . Nat'l magazines will again be asked to devote July covers to War Bond theme. Design will incorporate signatures of our 5-star gen'l's and admirals. . .

U S Secret Service warns public to be on lookout for fraudulent checks purporting to represent payments to disabled vets. If check is tendered as issued by "Disabled Veterans Bureau" it's a phony. There's no such bureau.

Army is still taking % of wool output. Quality wool suits will be scarcer this spring.



AVIATION: Some military secrecy was stripped this wk from *Curtis-Wright Ascender* (XP-55) revolutionary aircraft that "appears to fly backward." The 1275-hp engine and propeller are behind pilot. Wings are near the tail. Elevator control surfaces, usually in tail assembly, are far forward. Advantages: high speed; improved longitudinal control and maneuverability; improved visibility for shooting nose-mounted guns; less noise in cockpit; less fire danger to pilot, as flames are carried to rear; greater recovery in spins; pilot can "dump" propeller before bailing out, eliminating danger of being struck by pusher propeller.

New glass lens removes blinding glare, harsh tiring invisible rays from light; enables pilots to detect targets and terrain obscured by haze. Penetrates haze because glass absorbs blue light. (*American Optical Company*)

" "

FIRE PREVENTION: Fire curtains, to protect roof and side walls of bldgs adjacent to burning structure are made of fire resistant fabric in sections which may be carried in rolls to roof, fastened to taut line, unrolled to hang overlapping to ground. Flying sparks lighting on it are harmless. (*Science News Letter*)

" "

INVENTION: Inventor in London has developed "magic box" to serve in directing blind persons in traffic. With aid of earphones, those without sight can determine distance from people and objects, direction they are moving and speed of approach. (*American Wkly*)

" "

PRODUCTS: There is newly-developed chemical which, when added to shoe dressing, is said to prevent athlete foot and keep shoes from mildewing. (*Grit*)

PRAYER—Thankfulness

Dr Alexander Whyte of Edinburgh was famous for his pulpit prayers. He always found something to thank God for, even in bad times. One stormy morning a member of his congregation thought to himself, "The preacher will have nothing to thank God for on a wretched morning like this." But Whyte began his prayer, "We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this."—*The Chaplain*.

PREJUDICE—in Religion

From Cincinnati comes the story of a little boy of Jewish parentage who was told by his rabbi that he must no longer frequent the Presbyterian church gymnasium and swimming pool. Trying to explain to the young Presbyterian minister, who was much beloved for all he was doing for the youngsters of the community, the lad choked up and could only stammer, "Ain't religion hell?"—T T BRUMBAUGH, "How Religion Divides Us!" *Christian Century*, 1-31-45.

RED TAPE

There is the memory of a seriously wounded Negro soldier on a Normandy landing strip. The nurse asked him where his ticket was; said he couldn't be evacuated without the tag. After some discussion he said wearily, "Ma'm, I didn't need any ticket to come over here."—EW R MURROW, quoted in *Talks*, hm, Columbia Broadcasting Co.

RELIGION

E Stanley Jones, famous missionary in India, spoke very frankly with Mahatma Ghandi one day.

"Mr Ghandi, it is an objection urged against Christianity that it is a foreign religion in India. Some missionaries are anxious to have Christianity fit the country and its people. How can this be done?"

The little brown man in the loincloth did not hesitate. His sentence was brief, frank and to the point. "Preach your religion without diluting it!"—PHILIP CLEVELAND, *Pulpit Digest*.

SABBATH—Observance

The Sabbath truly lived, is man's Re-creation, physically and spiritu-

ally. Too many go to work the day after their Sabbath with the proverbial "blue Monday" feeling. And why? Because they spend their Sabbath entirely in physical pursuits and thus the next day they are tired, fatigued, and "blue". They really need another Sabbath for recuperation.—DR HERBERT S GOLDSTEIN, rabbi, West Side Institutional Synagogue, N Y City.

"Well Spoken!"

"War never leaves where it found a nation."—EDMUND BURKE " " " " "There is no doubt that the real destroyer of the liberties of any people is he who spreads among them bounties, donations and largess."—PLUTARCH " " " " "He who by warming up the Old can gain knowledge of the New is fit to teach."—CONFUCIUS " " " " "A fanatic is a man who has clung to the means even after he has forgotten the end."—SANTAYANA " " " " "When God shuts a door, he opens a window."—JOHN RUSKIN.

SPEECH—Speaking

A certain South African tribe considers long speeches injurious both to the orator and his audience. To protect both, there is an unwritten law that every public speaker must stand on one leg while addressing his hearers. As soon as his other foot touches the ground, his speech is brought to a close, by force if necessary.—*The Safer Way*.

VOCABULARY

A child was asked why she talked so much.

"I don't know any big words," she explained, "so I use lots and lots of little ones to make up."—*Parade*.

WAR—Production

The shipbldg industry of the U S has been able to construct more new combat ships than the entire tonnage lost by the Allies during the war.—*Ships*, hm, Shipbldrs Council of U S.

"... the noblest monument of our English prose"

For a number of yrs one of the most popular courses at Smith College has been an informal study of the King James Version of the Bible and its influence on other English literature. The course is conducted by MARY ELLEN CHASE, Professor of English. Out of her specialized study and rich experiences, Miss Chase has now fashioned an informative little book, *The Bible And The Common Reader* (Macmillan, \$2.50). As the title implies, the book makes no claim to profound biblical scholarship. It is neither painfully academic nor uncomfortably erudite. Our excerpt is from the introductory chapter, What is The Bible?

In the derivation of our word, *Bible*, lies its definition. It comes from the Greek, *biblion* which in its plural *biblia* signifies "little books". The Bible is actually a collection of little books, written over a long period of time, the earliest dating back to 1200 B C, or even earlier.

The story-tellers of the Bible understood men and women of all sorts and in all conditions. There is no type of person whom they have neglected. All are there: the wise and the foolish, the rich and the poor, the faithful and the treacherous, the designing and the generous, the pitiful and the prosperous, the innocent and the guilty, the spendthrift and the miser. . .

Once one discovers such persons as these, still alive after many centuries, they become not only fascinating in themselves but typical of persons whom we know today, just as Mr Micawber and Fagin are typical of the easy-going and the cruel, or as Robin Hood and Capt Blood typify two different attitudes toward daring and adventure, or as Don Quixote and Parson Adams are typical of men who, although they exist in this world, actually live in a kinder, better, more glorified one. . .

The Bible, then, is a collection, a library of various books, reflecting and illuminating the long life of a small, yet a great people. If it were only that its value would be imperishable. But it is more. It is, indeed, in its most perfect translations, what John Livingston Lowes has termed it: "the noblest monument of English prose." Its words and phrases, images and similes have become part and parcel of our common English speech.

Think for a moment how in the course of a single day spent in the homely, necessary details of living,

we clarify and illuminate our talk by the often unconscious use of its language. An unwelcome neighbor becomes "gall and wormwood" or "a thorn in the flesh"; a hated task, "a millstone about the neck"; we escape from one thing or another "by the skin of our teeth"; we earn our bread "by the sweat of our faces"; like Martha we become "careful and troubled about many things"; we "strain at gnats and swallow camels"; tired at night, we say that "our spirit is willing but our flesh is weak"; in moments of anger we remember that "a soft answer turneth away wrath"; we prophesy to our children that if they "sow the wind they shall reap the whirlwind", or puzzle them with knowledge "brought by a bird"; words fitly spoken are "like apples of gold in pictures of silver"; the price of our generous friends is still "far above rubies"; we "heap coals of fire" upon the heads of others and we are ourselves "hewers of wood and drawers of water"; we long for the time when men "shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

The language of the Bible, now simple and direct in its homely vigor, now sonorous and stately in its richness, has placed its indelible stamp upon our best writers from Bacon to Lincoln and even to the present day. Without it there would be no *Paradise Lost*, no *Samson Agonistes*, no *Pilgrim's Progress*; no Wm Blake, or Whittier, or T S Eliot as we know them; no Emerson or Thoreau, no Negro Spirituals, no Address at Gettysburg. Without it the words of Burke and Washington, Patrick Henry and Winston Churchill would miss alike their eloquence and their meaning. Without a knowledge of it the best of our literature remains obscure.



Faith of a
Founding Father
GEO WASHINGTON

At the time of the Washington Bi-Centennial (1932) JOHN ALDEN CARPENTER, a well-known American composer, was commissioned to write text and music for a four-part chorus for voices and orchestra. Mr Carpenter called this production *Song of Faith*. It was performed in the nation-wide celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Geo Washington.

A feature of this chorus is the interpolation, near the conclusion, of what the composer terms "the Washington recitative". An offstage voice recites excerpts from the writings of Gen'l Washington. This recitative we here present in full.

Mr Carpenter, who celebrates his 68th birthday Feb 28, is a retired industrialist, now living in Chicago.

I close this last solemn act of my life by commanding the interests of our dearest country to the protection of Almighty God.

I now make my earnest prayer that He would have you in His holy protection.

Let us labor to keep alive in our breasts that little spark of celestial fire called Conscience.

We must not despair, the game is yet in our hands.

Let us have a government by which our lives and our liberties shall be secured.

I feel now as I conceive a wearied traveller must do:

I move gently down the stream of life until I sleep with my fathers.

The work is done, the voice of mankind is with me,

I am not afraid to go.

The time is 2045. A youngster asks his father for information about a school essay he has to write. The subject is Adolf Hitler.

"Look it up in the encyclopedia," the father suggests.

"I did," the boy rejoined, "but this little note is all I find." He passed the book to his father, who read:

"HITLER, Adolf: A robber baron who lived in the Age of Stalin."—LEONARD LYONS, syndicated col.

" "

A little old Frenchwoman, extremely deaf, lived near a munitions plant being operated by the Nazis. One day a shell from the American artillery found it, and the great factory went up with a mighty roar. When the old lady heard the sound she turned to the door and said, "Come in, Yvette."

When the servant entered she said, "My hearing is improving. That's the first time I've heard you knock at the door for 20 yrs."—Wall St Jnl.



OF THE WEEK

It looks like there's Federal control of everything but Federal spending.—*Judge*.

" "

A pun is the lowest form of humor—unless, of course, you happen to think of it first.—*Nat'l Safety News*.

" "

One thing the Allied nations have in common is the ability to see one another's duty.—*Arcadia (Wisc) News-Leader*.

" "

Heredity is something every man believes in until his children begin to act like fools.—*Threads*.

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

Maj-Gen'l JAS H DOOLITTLE

At one time, some yrs ago, I rec'd the assignment to transport a grumbling gen'l to a far western post. A storm broke out en route, and it began to look as tho our little open-cockpit plane was in for a spot of trouble. However, we finally landed safely at our destination, to the evident relief of my passenger.

"I want to congratulate you," he said. "I know we had a rough trip, but every time I got scared I looked at you, up front with those ear phones on and I knew you'd keep on the beam and bring us thru."

I thanked my superior officer, but was obliged to tell him that in this case there was no beam. "Those earphones were a great help, tho," I added. "I was listening to the World Series."



Each Allied vehicle entering Paris at the time of the liberation was hailed by a cheering populace, shouting the name painted on its side. "Vive, Lizzie!" they cried. "Merci, Blackpool!"

One of the warmest welcomes was given a truckload of American soldiers. The crowd looked at the words chalked on the radiator and yelled, "Vive! Check Oil Level!"—*London Eve News*.

"Pa," said Mrs. Hidgson, with evident anxiety in her voice, "I'm gettin' real worried about Elmer. Seems like he just don't want to marry."

"Shucks, Ma," Mr. Hidgson spat philosophically, "don't you worry a mite about Elmer not wantin' to marry. He will when the wrong girl comes along."—*Progressive Farmer*.

" "

A lady trustee of a home for delinquent girls approached the director with something on her mind. She really thought, she said, that the time had come to try to have a better class of girls in the institution, and wasn't there something that could be done about it?—*The Pleasures of Publishing*, hm, Columbia U Press.

